

**MODERN TREATMENT YEARBOOK, 1955.** Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B. (Pp. viii + 337. 25s.) London : Published for The Medical Press by Ballière, Tindall & Cox Ltd., 1955.

THE sub-title of this work is "a year book of diagnosis and treatment for the general practitioner." This year it attains its majority and the occasion is one for congratulations to its editor, whose fostering care has gained for this annual an established reputation with the general practitioner.

The presentation is the same as heretofore, some thirty-six articles written by experts in their own subjects. No less than nine of these articles deal with various aspects of antibiotic therapy, its uses and abuses, and provide an excellent résumé of contemporary views on this subject.

There are other excellent articles on the new insulins, the modern treatment of hepatitis, cardiovascular diseases, including temporal arteritis, adrenal deficiency disorders and intractable pain.

The standard of production of the book improves each year, and for presbyopics the print is a delight to read.

W. G. F.

**BLOOD COAGULATION AND THROMBOSIS.** British Medical Bulletin, Vol. 11, No. 1. London : Medical Department, The British Council, 1955.

THE Medical Department of the British Council is to be congratulated on producing this number of the British Medical Bulletin entirely devoted to blood coagulation and thrombosis.

There have been signs, in recent years, of a sub-division of hæmatology into a number of sub-specialities—morphology, immuno-hæmatology, studies on blood coagulation, etc. Each of these sub-specialities has evolved rapidly, developed a language of its own, and built up an intellectual iron curtain which has also helped to preserve its exclusive identity. So exclusive, indeed, have some of these sub-specialities become that it has been said of the coagulationist that, like the Cabots of Boston, they speak only to God. In the field of blood coagulation what has been grievously needed was someone with vision, a sense of perspective, and the ability to simplify complicated technical matters so that they could be fully understood by practising hospital clinical pathologists. This need has, to a great extent, been met by Professor McFarlane and his school at Oxford.

In this number of the British Medical Bulletin devoted to blood coagulation and thrombosis an attempt has been made to present "many aspects of recent work on blood coagulation and its practical application to medicine." After an authoritative introduction by Professor McFarlane which outlines the present position with regard to the coagulation system the further contributors, each experts in their own field, describe various aspects of blood coagulation, the hæmorrhagic diathesis, thrombosis, and anti-coagulation therapy. The number is rounded off by a thought-provoking article by Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith in his characteristic philosophical style.

This number will prove invaluable as a guide, not only to all hæmatologists and clinical pathologists, but also to a much wider field of medical practitioners who are interested in the problems of the hæmorrhagic states and the treatment of vascular thrombosis. It is stimulating, authoritative, up to date, and devoid of confusing nomenclature.

M. G. N.

**THE ROLE OF THE PITUITARY IN CANCER.** By Henry K. Wachtel, M.D. (Pp. 31. \$2.) New York : William Frederick, 1954.

DESPITE its price and manner of publication, this relates to a patented produce and is entirely uncritical.